



Siksika Nation Tribal Administration

MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Siksika Nation Funeral Assistance Policy — Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the purpose of the Funeral Assistance Policy?

The Policy exists **(a)** to give financial help with funeral expenses for deceased Siksika Nation Members and **(b)** to provide clear rules for staff who administer that help.

2. Who can apply for funeral assistance?

- **Executor first.** If the deceased Member named an executor in their will, that executor may apply.
- **Next-of-kin if no executor or will.** See Q 3 for how next-of-kin is chosen.

3. How is “next-of-kin” decided?

When there is no executor, the closest living relative may apply in this order: **spouse/common-law partner → child → grandchild → great-grandchild → parent → sibling → niece/nephew → grandparent → aunt/uncle → first cousin.**

Only **one person** can act; eligible relatives must agree who that will be (the eldest child is not automatic).

4. Is there a deadline to apply?

Yes. The application must be filed **within three (3) months of the Member’s death.**

5. How much assistance is available?

| Category | Amount |
|--|---------|
| Member aged ≥ 11 yrs or taller than 4 ft 6 in | \$6,500 |
| Member aged ≤ 10 yrs and shorter than 4 ft 6 in | \$3,250 |



Siksika Nation Tribal Administration

MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Siksika Nation Funeral Assistance Policy — Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ)

5. How much assistance is available?

| Category | Amount |
|---|--|
| Former Chief | \$12,000 |
| Former Councillor | \$10,000 |
| Wake services (in addition to above) | \$1,000 |
| Stillborn child | \$1,000 (wake + funeral) |
| Presumed-death memorial | Up to \$2,000 until a court order is issued, then the balance of the normal amount. |

6. Can extra help be approved for special situations?

Yes. The Senior Manager may grant extra funds for transporting remains, an oversized casket or special liner, or other exceptional needs.

7. What counts as “funeral expenses”?

The term covers the casket, funeral or cremation services, wake services and memorial services — travel or accommodation for attendees is not included.



Siksika Nation Tribal Administration

MEMBERSHIP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Siksika Nation Funeral Assistance Policy — Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ)

8. Are members responsible for costs that exceed the approved amount?

Yes. Siksika Nation is **not liable for any expenses over the approved assistance limit.**

9. What happens if someone misuses the funds?

The Nation may **demand repayment, withhold future payments, or report suspected crimes** if assistance is spent on anything other than funeral expenses.

10. How are the funds paid out?

- **Funeral-home costs** are paid directly to the chosen funeral home.
- **Wake-service funds** may be paid to the applicant or, if requested, to a caterer.

11. What documents must accompany an application?

You will need: the approved application form, proof of death, proof of executor status (if applicable), a letter of consent from other next-of-kin (if applicable), and any other information the Senior Manager or Estates Officer requires.

12. Can I buy a casket from another vendor?

Yes. The cost can be reimbursed or paid directly to the vendor, **so long as the combined payments stay within the approved assistance limit.**

13. Who may be buried on-reserve, and where?

Only Siksika Members are entitled to on-reserve burial; non-members need Chief & Council approval. Burials are limited to eight recognized Nation cemeteries (e.g., Cannon Stockton, Crowfoot, Little Chicago, etc.).

14. What if I disagree with a decision?

You may **appeal to the Membership Tribunal**, which will set a hearing within seven days and render a final, binding decision following fair-hearing principles.

This sheet summarizes key points; consult the full Policy or the Membership Department for complete details.